

## **Cooperative salmon drift gillnet test fishing in the lower Yukon River, 2001**

**Abstract:** The Lower Yukon River drift gillnet test fish program is designed to assess the run timing and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon. The feasibility of using drift gillnets to obtain pertinent information in season that fisheries managers can use for assessing relative abundance and run timing of salmon returning to the Yukon River drainage is tested. The ability of the summer season Middle Mouth drift gillnet test fishery to correlate with trends in other Lower Yukon test fisheries or the Pilot Station sonar passage estimates were inconclusive. Drift fishing at incorrect times in relation to high tides may have caused the failure of Middle Mouth to correspond with other assessment projects in the Lower Yukon River during the summer season. Fall operations for drift gillnet test fishing in the Lower Yukon River were similar to trends observed in the sonar passage estimates obtained at Pilot Station. Age, sex and length measurements were taken; run timing was recorded and catch per unit effort was calculated for each species.

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